

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1813, December 19, 1953

FLYING IN A D 2003

A leading aeronautical expert gives C N readers a peep into the future

On page 7 we tell the story of the dawn of powered flight, just 50 years ago. Here, in a special interview, Peter Masefield, Chief Executive of British European Airways, discusses with C N correspondent Edward Lanchbery the probable pattern of air travel 50 years hence.

MR. MASEFIELD glanced out of the window of his office at the end of the runway at Northolt. We listened to the background drone of piston-engined Vikings which were being run-up in preparation for flights to Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow.

Except for the officials directly concerned with flying control and arrivals and departures, no one spared the aircraft a thought. Workmen on the airport, people in the neighbouring streets, went about their business without bothering to raise their heads for a glimpse of the machines passing over their heads.

Fifty years ago any prophet who had forecast such developments in general flying, let alone the supersonic achievements of ex-

perimental research, would have been derided as a crank.

Today, as we reach the half-way stage in the first century of powered flight, one would hesitate to set any limits on the imagination in speculating upon aviation 50 years hence.

The likelihood is to underestimate developments, because the story of flying is not one of gradual achievement. Progress has been in a series of gallops, springing usually from a revolutionary change in design or power unit, such as the switch from biplane to monoplane, and the current transition from piston engine to jet.

ATOMIC ENERGY IN FLYING

The next major revolution in the history of flying may come from the use of atomic energy, but Mr. Masefield rules out this factor from his forecast of the position at the end of the first century of powered flight.

Experiments for atom-propelled aircraft are at present proceeding, but they are still in such a crude state that it would be rash to forecast even what form the atomic fuel will take.

"I do consider that atomic units will probably be possible within the next 50 years," he said, "but for general flying purposes I think we shall be still depending upon jet and rocket units, both developed to the peak of their power and efficiency."

"Runways and aerodromes will be things of the past. I feel quite certain that my successor of A.D. 2003 will not be receiving a C N representative in an office like this.

VERTICAL TAKE-OFF

"The air stations will be right in the heart of the towns, with launching sites occupying less room than a main line railway terminus. Both the rocket-powered aircraft for world travel, and the jet engines on local services, will take off and land vertically.

"Passengers will be shot straight through the sound barrier without realising that such a fearful obstacle in the way of high-speed flight was ever supposed to exist. Travel will be reckoned not in terms of miles, but of speed. Distance, as we understand the word now, will have no meaning.

"It will take no longer to

Continued on page 7

Four little maids from Norway



These four sisters, Leslie, Victoria, Alexandra, and Rebecca Bray, have come from Norway to stay with their grandmother at Wraysbury, Bucks. They received their Christmas presents early this year, for their grandmother gave each girl a Shetland pony.

EIGHT LIVES LEFT

Passers-by in Lambeth, London, heard a plaintive mewing coming from an air-raid shelter that had been bricked up five days earlier.

The police and the fire brigade were fetched, and tried lowering a basket of food into the shelter. After several attempts at this had failed to bring out any cat it was decided to knock a hole through the thick wall of the shelter. This took the firemen two hours of hard work. Then a fireman and an R.S.P.C.A. officer crawled through and returned with a kitten little the worse for its adventure and still with eight of its nine proverbial lives left.

Pilot Sylvia



Sylvia Richards learned to fly at the London Aeroplane Club at Panshanger Aerodrome near her Hatfield home. Now, at 17, she has been awarded her pilot's certificate. Sylvia is here seen alighting from the cockpit.

IT'S A STRANGE WORLD

Among odd happenings reported from different parts of the world is one of a queer nodding tree in a village in India.

It is a toddy palm, growing on the bank of a stream, which is said to raise and lower itself during the day and night as though in homage.

Large crowds have been watching it in superstitious awe, and experts have been trying to trace the cause of the tree's behaviour.

From another Indian village comes the report of a huge human-like footprint, seen in ploughed land. The footprint, with five toes clearly outlined, is nearly three feet long and 16 inches wide.

The villagers state that similar footprints were seen in the neighbourhood in 1934.

India is certainly a land of

mystery, and one that has been puzzling the people of Madhya Pradesh is the tiger with a bell round its neck that roams the jungles near a certain village.

The sound of its bell warns them of its approach. But who could have had the nerve to "bell the tiger"? One explanation is that the animal grew up in captivity and was turned loose as it grew older and dangerous, its owners omitting to remove the bell.

These peculiar affairs are reported in the Indian paper The Home and the World, which also writes of an 84-year-old man in Rajkot who has an extra finger on each hand. So have his sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons. But the women of his family are without this presumably inherited abnormality.

From France comes the curious story of some boys who were playing football on a hilltop near Nancy when a plane, piloted by a young practical joker, flew very low to give them a fright.

The boys dashed for the cover of bushes, except one stout-hearted lad who kicked the football as hard as he could up at the oncoming plane. The ball damaged the propeller, and the foolish pilot was obliged to land on the nearest open space.

HER DOLL IN THE CRIB

Five-year-old Felicity Saunders of Arkley, Herts., thought very hard before she offered to lend her doll to lie in the Christmas Crib in St. Martin-within-Ludgate, on Ludgate Hill.

She wondered if it would be lonely at nights—until she heard that it would have animals and birds for company. For this year, instead of the traditional shepherds, the church is having an animals' crib.

Though the scene is set in Palestine, they are a cosmopolitan group, which includes a Dalmatian dog, Angora goat, Manx cat, and British birds. They come from a collection of stuffed specimens owned by an anonymous patron. He hopes the novelty will help the £10,000 appeal fund to save this Wren church of the nursery rhyme—in which the bells asked for only "five farthings."

The Crib will remain on view until January 6.

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PROSPECTS IN THE SUDAN

From a Special Correspondent

FOR the past 50 years the Sudan has been jointly ruled by Britain and Egypt, as a Condominium. But recently the Sudanese, for the first time in their history, went to the polling stations to elect members of their own national parliament—a parliament which will decide the future status of this huge, cotton-producing country. The result of those elections is a majority for the National Unionist party, which seeks some form of unity with Egypt.

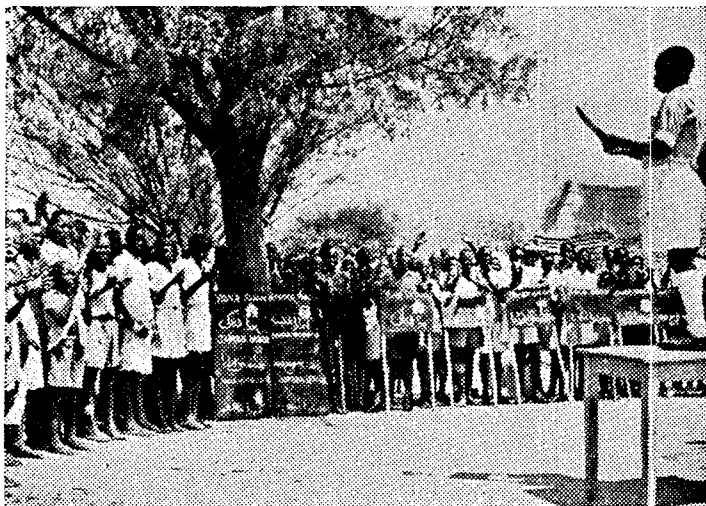
This result is one of the utmost importance; for if it eventually leads to union with Egypt, it will certainly make Egypt the most powerful among the Arab States, and will ensure her control of the twin Blue and White Niles, her only water supply.

It is the Nile, too, which made possible the enormous irrigation project known as the Gezira Scheme. There, in the heart of the Sudan, the Nile's waters have been harnessed to make fertile a million acres of land upon which some of the world's best cotton

the elections (the National Unionists) is the strongest and best organised, in the Western sense. It holds political meetings, and its Members of Parliament are trained debaters.

The other party is the Umma, or Homeland Party. These Homelander, who favour independence, have as their leader Abdur-Rahman El Mahdi, a son of the famous Mahdi who fought against General Gordon and Kitchener over half a century ago.

Nowadays, however, the Mahdi's followers are friendly to the



Announcing an election result in the Southern Sudan

grows. The export of Gezira cotton has made the Sudan one of the few countries in the world with a favourable trade balance.

Who are the Sudanese? Unlike the Egyptians, they are not any one distinct people. Until just over 1000 years ago most of them were not civilised, and about that time they were conquered by the Arabs, who crossed the Red Sea from what is now Saudi Arabia.

After this time, most of the tribes of the north and west adopted the Arabs' religion of Islam, as well as the Arabic language.

PRIMITIVE PEOPLE

In these two respects the Sudanese way of life is similar to that of the Egyptians. But in the far south, near the Equator, are the swamps and jungles of the less advanced tribes, bordering on Abyssinia, Uganda, and the Congo.

In these southern parts razor blades are often used as currency, and some of the people still worship trees. They have no knowledge of Arabic, and know next to nothing about what goes on in the north.

These people have elected their own representatives to sit in the Parliament (called the Assembly) in Khartoum, the country's capital.

In the north, around Khartoum, the desert Sudanese have two main parties. The party which has won

British, and many of them would like to see complete independence for the Sudan, with British advisers staying on for a few years to help the Sudanese to run their country.

Of course, the Umma party will still remain a very important factor in the Sudan. As in all democracies, the existence of two parties means that no single group is able to make itself complete master of the country.

But whatever happens in the political life of the Sudan, immense tasks have to be faced. To raise the standard of living, many millions of pounds will have to be spent on education and irrigation.

BIG TASKS AHEAD

The Sudanese face the problems of seeing that all the people are adequately fed, and of providing health services in a vast country where several tropical diseases are still rampant.

Fortunately there are a number of trained Sudanese who are specialising in these problems, and they already have impressive results to show. Every year, as more graduates come from the new University at Khartoum, larger numbers of young men and women start the great adventure of developing their country. On the broad shoulders of these enthusiasts largely rests the future of the Sudan.



By the C.N. Press Gallery Correspondent

A GOVERNMENT which can command only a small majority in the Commons does not lightly send a major-policy Bill to a standing committee. For it can so easily be defeated on points of detail.

The present Government have taken this risk with the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill. A standing committee is composed of about 60 M.P.s chosen according to the strength of the parties in the Commons. The Government must therefore get their Bill through the committee stage with a majority of one.

In practice, of course, a reverse on some clause or line of the Bill in a standing committee can be put right when the committee "report" to the House; and then the Government can use its full majority on the floor of the House to restore the original words.

Nor does a defeat in standing committee mean that the Government have to resign. It can be embarrassing, but it is not fatal.

MR. HAROLD MACMILLAN, Minister of Housing and Local Government, is in charge of the Bill. He and his Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Ernest Marples, face a long period in a committee composed largely of lawyers.

The Law Officers, Sir Lionel Heald (Attorney-General) and Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller (Solicitor-General), will also be available. For this is a truly legal Bill, and only lawyers will understand some parts of it.

But the main purpose is clear. It is to set going a big broom designed to tidy up the rent laws and sweep away slums. One of Britain's basic problems for generations has been that there are fewer houses than families, and fewer families able to buy houses than to rent them.

THE two great wars of the present century created a shortage of houses, and this led to rents being fixed according to a formula and then "controlled"—in other words, frozen.

Over the years Governments created a great machine of Statutes called the Rent Restriction Acts—about a dozen of them—governing rent-controlled houses, of which there are now about seven million.

But building repair costs have gone up and many landlords have found their fixed rents insufficient to cover the necessary repairs.

MR. MACMILLAN tackles this problem by increasing rents provided the increase is spent on repairs. His aim is to prevent old property from becoming unfit for habitation.

Linked with this plan is a scheme of grants enabling older houses to be modernised, another scheme to patch up near-slum houses until they can be pulled down, and finally a revival of slum demolition, held up since 1939.

News from Everywhere

NEST-EGG

During the year, two magpies and four jackdaws in the East Park Aviary at Southampton have collected 35,061 coins, amounting to more than £150. The money will be given to Southampton Children's Hospital.

A halibut weighing over a quarter of a ton, one of the largest caught for many years, has been landed by a trawler at Hull.

Portsmouth will spend some £27,000,000 on repairing bomb damage and building a civic centre, new roads, and a satellite town.

A chrysanthemum plant with over 70 blooms won a first prize at a Leicestershire show.

BOUNDING EXPORTS

Exports of British tennis balls in the first ten months of this year went over the four million mark, earning £380,000—an increase of over £100,000 on last year.

British seeds won the world wheat championship and six other world prizes at Toronto Royal Agricultural Fair.

A dramatised version of the Dickens story Little Dorrit is playing to packed houses in Moscow.

A coin-box television service has been started in America. The picture is out of focus until the coins are inserted in the set.

The keepers of Maiden's Light-house, off the Antrim coast, now get daily papers and mail dropped by a Royal Navy helicopter.

During excavations at Folkestone football ground a platter about 1800 years old was found among fragments and bones. The site is thought to be a Roman burial ground.

ANOTHER CLIMB

Next year Sir Edmund Hillary will lead a New Zealand expedition to the Himalayas to scale one or more of the unclimbed peaks.

This year's world sugar production is estimated to be a record. It amounts to 38½ million tons—2½ million tons more than last year.

Staffordshire County Council will ask schoolchildren to care for 1200 new trees being planted along roads.

BEAVERS DID THE JOB

A dam built by beavers at the outlet of a lake in Quebec, where the department of game and fisheries had been planning one, is so good that officials have cancelled their scheme.

Ski socks electrically heated by a battery carried in a pouch around the waist are now on sale in America.

Stars love Mars ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



Says TERRY-THOMAS:

"Mars are marvellous—they fill the gap for me between meals!"

There's a fine How-d'ye-do if Terry-Thomas finds he's out of Mars! He can't resist that delicious centre of chocolate malted milk with the layer of soft, buttery caramel and the full-cream milk chocolate coating. Terry believes in Mars and more Mars—because Mars are marvellous!



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67 BAYHAM STREET, LONDON, N.W.1

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CLIMBER'S BUSY DAY

To climb the highest mountains of England, Scotland, and Wales in one day seems almost an impossibility.

But at a meeting of the Three Peaks Club at Kilnsey, Yorkshire, it was revealed that Mr. J. C. Dixon accomplished the feat on June 2 in 22 hours 40 minutes; and this was his timetable:

Ben Nevis Midnight	Scawfell 11.55 a.m.
Glen Nevis 1.35 a.m.	Langdale 2.0 p.m.
Keswick 8.20 a.m.	Bettws-y-Coed 7.45 p.m.
Seathwaite 9.35 a.m.	Snowdon 10.40 p.m.

It was snowing on Ben Nevis, blowing on Scawfell, and blowing, raining, and misty on Snowdon—all on a day in June!

It is on record that some years ago two men did a similar journey in 22 hours 41 minutes, and they both drove and climbed, whereas in this latest attempt Mr. Dixon had a driver.

M.P.s SAIL TO LIGHTHOUSE

One million signatures—and donations—is the aim of the organisers of the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Gift Fund to aid mothers and children throughout Australia.

And they are sparing no effort to reach that target. Recently two members of the Victorian Parliament sailed out to Gellibrand lighthouse, off Port Melbourne, to collect the signatures of the lighthouse keeper and his wife.

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST

A town hall is being built at Wragby (which claims to be the smallest town in Lincolnshire), and at a bricklaying ceremony bricks were laid by representatives of different age groups. The youngest was Gillian Thorne, aged two, and the oldest was Mr. Robert Bygott, aged 92.

MAKING TREBLY SURE

In order to keep road drill fresh in their minds, 1500 schoolchildren of King's Lynn, Norfolk, are to attend a new road-safety instructional centre three times a year.

PREP PROBLEMS

A 15-year-old French schoolgirl, writing to the Paris children's paper Benjamin, complained that she had so much homework that she could never go to bed before midnight.

The editor, rightly shocked, has started an inquiry into this prep problem, asking his readers to answer such questions as:

Do you start work within half an hour of arriving home?

Do you wait until the last evening before tackling work set several days previously?

Do you jump from one task to another, finishing neither, because you soon become bored with one subject?

Do you find it impossible to work unless the wireless is on?

When you go to look up something in a book, do you read bits out of a dozen volumes from the bookshelf which have nothing whatever to do with your subject?

Truthful answers to these and other questions, the editor thinks, will determine whether his readers are getting the right amount of sleep.

SMELLING DANGER

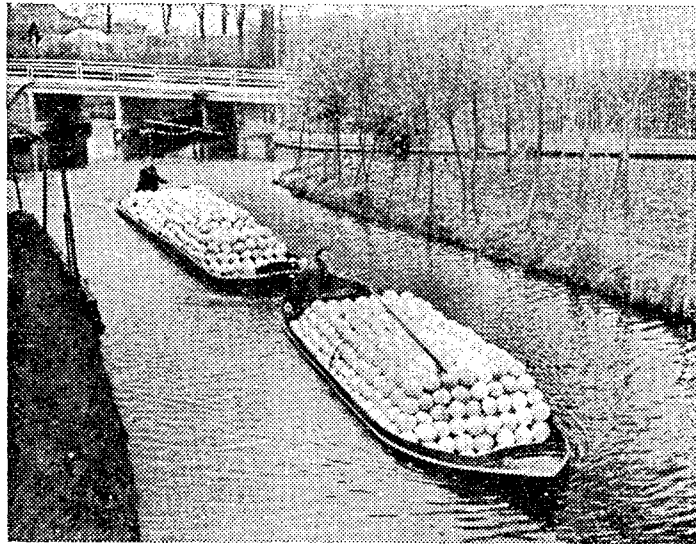
Garlic and sweet violet scents may be used for fire prevention in British ships and coal-mines. Following its success in Canadian coal-mines, the system is being tried in this country.

A capsule filled with scent is attached to machine parts which are liable to overheat and cause fire. When such a section overheats the capsule melts and sends the smell into the ventilating system, thus giving good warning of danger.

NORWAY'S HOSTELS

The Norwegian Youth Hostel movement announces that it has now 216 hostels with 6000 beds.

First started in 1930, the movement has grown rapidly, and last year more than 206,000 single-night bookings were made. Of these more than half were made by visitors from other countries.



Cargoes of cabbages

These canal barges laden with cabbages are on their way to the waterside auction houses in West Friesland, Holland.

HIS PRIZE FOR HANDWRITING

Nigel Duce, 13-year-old student of Leeds Grammar School, has won a special prize for the best handwriting in the school.

An engraved set of silver ink bottles on a silver tray, the prize was given by an old scholar to mark the fourth centenary of the school.

The presentation was made by Dr. Terry Thomas, who retires at Christmas after being Headmaster of Leeds Grammar School for 30 years.

Note: Our readers will have a chance to win prizes for handwriting in a national competition which the CN will sponsor early in the New Year.

WELL PLAYED !

Several leading professional and amateur football clubs are making collections at matches for the Westminster Abbey Restoration Fund.

Recently the "hat" was passed round when Coventry and Hull City were playing at home, and Wolverhampton is to ask fans for funds on Christmas Eve. Many more efforts of the sort are to be made at Christmas Day, and Boxing Day matches.

Clubs in the Midlands, including Birmingham City and Aston Villa, are particularly keen on helping to preserve the National Shrine.

LOST GOLD MINE

Workmen in Rhodesia were recently clearing away thick undergrowth near a mine in the Que Que district when they came upon some opencast gold workings.

Archaeologists who were called to examine the place believe that these workings were used by prospectors about 1000 years ago. Some tools used by the early miners have been found.

PILTDOWN EXPLAINED

A special Piltdown skull exhibit has been placed on view at South Kensington's Natural History Museum.

It consists of the original fragments, together with explanations of the methods used by the scientists in reaching their conclusions.

SIR WINSTON'S SHIELD

Sir Winston Churchill's Garter Shield, which will hang in St. George's Hall at Windsor Castle, is now being emblazoned by heraldic artist Mr. Percy Vere Collings of New Barnet.

His work has involved days of waiting while applications of paint, called "shadows," are drying. Six shadows, one on top of another, were needed to give the correct relief effect to the silver lion and shells in the arms. He has been working with gold leaf, and silver, black, red, and blue paint.

This is Mr. Vere Collings' 30th Garter Shield. Others included those for the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother, and King George VI.

TREASURE TROVE

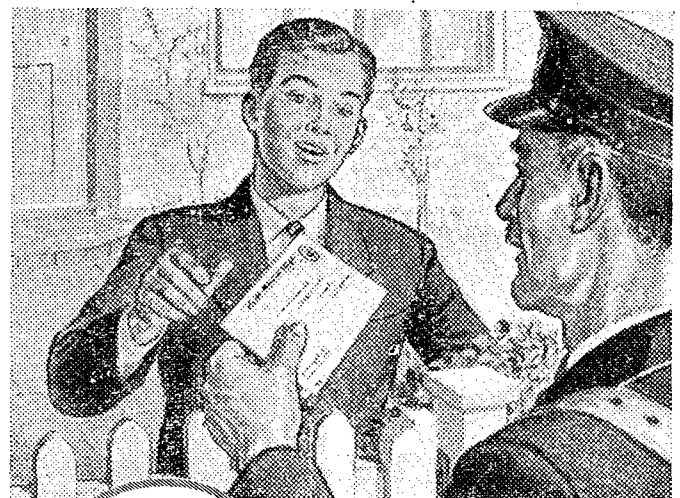
A number of schoolboys have found in the ruins of a farm at Eccleshill, Bradford, bags of sovereigns, half-sovereigns, and silver coins with a total value of nearly £1000.

Bearing dates between 1838 and 1914, they are thought to have been put under the floorboards for safety during the time of the First World War.

SCOOTING AROUND

Motor scooters are being manufactured at the rate of 1000 a day in Italy. The average Italian owner uses his scooter every day of the week and the small engines last about four years.

Boys! Here's your finest Christmas present:



THE CHANCE
OF A SPLENDID
CAREER IN THE
R.A.F.

Once Christmas is over, what does the New Year hold for you? A dead-end job? Or the chance to begin a splendid career in the Royal Air Force? If you're between 15 and 17½, the coupon below brings you particulars of the R.A.F.'s Apprenticeship and Boy Entrant Schemes. By joining the R.A.F. as a trade Apprentice you start ahead and stay ahead—right through your career, as many of today's senior R.A.F. officers can testify. The next entry joins early in 1954, so send for details before Christmas.

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POST COUPON BEFORE 27th DECEMBER—OR YOU MAY BE TOO LATE



Caring for baby

For three years these girls have been taking a course in household duties and child care in a West Berlin school. Here they are seen tending life-size dolls during their final examinations.

CN Bookshelf

Brief notices of a few newly-published books which may help to solve some outstanding Christmas present problems.

FIFTY YEARS OF FLIGHT

The Shape of the Aeroplane, by James Hay Stevens (Hutchinson, 12s. 6d.)

IN his introduction Mr. Stevens writes that his book is "simply an attempt to explain why the aeroplane of today looks as it does."

Therein is contained almost the whole history of powered flying.

Mr. Stevens begins his story with the Wright Brothers' biplane of 1903, and with 300 pages and more than 300 illustrations brings the reader through the years to the supersonic machines of today—and tomorrow.

He writes about every type of aircraft—bombers, fighters, transports, trainers, flying boats, and others—and about almost every one he gives the authoritative background as well as some interesting sidelights. It all makes absorbing reading and a first-class reference book.



"EL ORRANCE"

Lawrence of Arabia, by John Thomas (Muller, 6s.)

THIS new volume in the True Book series retells for a new generation one of the most remarkable stories of this century—the adventures of Colonel T. E. Lawrence in the First World War. The account of the Arabs' war on the Turks, led by "El Orrance," might be considered "far-fetched" were it presented as fiction—it happens to be true.

BALLERINA

Jane Leaves the Wells, by Lorna Hill (Evans, 9s. 6d.)

READERS of the author's four previous "Sadler's Wells" books will have a ready welcome for this new story. This time Jane Forster is in the spotlight, and the way in which she solves her problems provides another absorbing combination of ballet and outdoor adventure.

DRUMMER BOY

Mission for Oliver, by David Scott Daniell (Jonathan Cape, 9s. 6d.)

WHAT was it like to be a drummer boy in the British Army of 1805? Discipline was severe, and for the boy in this exciting yarn life was complicated by an adventure with Napoleon's spies. The author is a military historian.

HIDDEN FORCES

Drumbeats! by David Severn (The Bodley Head, 7s. 6d.)

AN out-of-the-ordinary tale about a school museum's drum which mysteriously conjures up African scenes when a certain boy taps it. Certainly a queer and thrilling business to be mixed up with the everyday life of a co-educational boarding school.

BUT ONCE A YEAR

Christmas at Nettleford, by Malcolm Saville (Hodder and Stoughton, 8s. 6d.)

MALCOLM SAVILLE fans—and they are legion—are sure to enjoy renewing the acquaintance of the Richardson family and their friends of the Owlers club.

This delightful book, as warm and friendly as Christmas itself, would adorn any youthful stocking.

MYSTERY IN SOHO

Harlequin Corner, by Pamela Brown (Nelson, 8s. 6d.)

NICOLA, Crispian, and Candy had never seen their Aunt Netta, who kept a shop in Soho, London; and they thought that a holiday with her was bound to be dull.

But the shop proved to be a theatrical costumiers', filled with all sorts of wonderful clothes, and their activities there lead to a lot of fun, as well as to some nice detective work.

This is one of the attractive decorations by Christine Price in *Stars Over Bethlehem*, by Opal Wheeler. (Harrap, 6s.)

HOLIDAY ADVENTURES

The Sentimental Smuggler, by Felicity Douglas (Faber, 9s. 6d.)

IN these holiday yarns we here meet characters that really come to life. Jake wanted to be a detective, and found himself on the trail of escaped convicts. Nicholas, the would-be actor, wistfully watching rehearsals, was suddenly called on to play Puck. Pippy, the girl, accidentally installed herself on board a modern smuggler's vessel.

The author has the gift of seeing the world through the eyes of a ten-year-old.

BACKWARD AT SCHOOL

Charles Darwin and his Problems, by Evelyn Cheesman (Bell, 9s. 6d.)

A VERY gentle boy and invariably polite—that was the verdict of Darwin's schoolmasters. But as for his studies, they could not say he was proficient in anything; they overlooked his enthusiasm for natural history—which they considered a waste of time!

This book about the famous scientist makes excellent reading.

STORIES BY PETER PAN

Chowry and Idle's Islands, by Jean Forbes-Robertson (MacGibbon and Kee, 8s. 6d.)

HAVING appeared eight times on the London stage as Peter Pan, the author is well equipped to take us into the realms of fantasy.

In two stories that make delightful reading she relates the adventures of Jo, Anna, and Idle.

In the first they find a battered car which turns into a yak and pulls the caravan on an exciting journey. The second involves Jo and Idle in astonishing adventures on an island which moves.

Continued at foot of next column

Great man of the stage

"The last of the great actor-managers," as he has been called, Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, was born on December 17, just 100 years ago.

Meteoric indeed was the stage career of the tall, fair-haired young man who determined to leave his merchant father's office. By 30 his name was bold upon the theatre bills; four years later he was manager of the Haymarket; at 44, supreme in his sphere, he built Her Majesty's Theatre.

Tree's versatility was remarkable: crowded houses delighted in his Hamlet, his Fagin, his sparkling Falstaff; but perhaps his greatest role was the villainous Svengali in the stage version of Du Maurier's *Tribute*.

LAVISH SPECTACLES

A master of make-up and vivid characterisation, Tree was a glutton for work. At the Haymarket he revelled in a great revival of Shakespeare. All London talked of his lavish productions.

"I prefer a spectacle on the stage to spectacles in the audience," he would say, as everyone gasped at a lifelike ship tossed by waves in his production of *The Tempest*, or at crashing temples and blazing houses in a Roman drama.

Managing Her Majesty's Theatre for 20 years until his death in 1917, Sir Herbert (he was knighted at 56) gathered around him a glittering array of talent. Generous and imaginative, he lived wholly for the theatre, and in the annals of the British stage his name glows forever.

The young actors of today and tomorrow are in his debt, too, for it was this forceful, colourful genius who founded the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

MUCH ADO AT SCHOOL

Broxton's Silver Spur, by Michael Poole (Newnes, 7s. 6d.)

AT Broxton School a journalist in search of facts met the leg-pulling Gerald Challis—and then the fun began!

Gerald, his friend "Mollie" Malone, and Sprott's "Down with Bullying" movement will delight everyone who likes a rollicking school story.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

SOFT TOY MAKING, by Rosemary Brinley (Muller, 6s.)

THE YOUNG TRAVELLER IN SCOTLAND, by Ian Finlay (Phoenix House, 8s. 6d.)

THE OBSERVER'S BOOK OF AIRCRAFT, by William Green and Gerald Pollinger (Warne, 5s.)

4000 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS, by Earl W. Count (Rider, 7s. 6d.)

ANIMALS AROUND US, by J. Bentley Aistrop (Dobson, 9s. 6d.)

HOW I BECAME A DETECTIVE, by Christopher Peacock, and HOW I BECAME AN ENGINE DRIVER, by Norman McKillop (Nelson, 5s. each.)

THE ADVENTURE OF SPACE TRAVEL, by G. V. E. Thompson (Dobson, 10s. 6d.)

PICTURE STORIES FROM THE BIBLE (in cartoon strips): The Old Testament, 12s. 6d.; The New Testament, 8s. 6d. (Bible Pictures Inc.)

SEARCHING FOR THE FIRST TALKIES

By Ernest Thomson, our Radio and TV Correspondent

IN the cellars of Wardour Street and other film strongholds BBC recording experts are hunting for early reels to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the introduction of talkies.

The results will be heard in a Light Programme feature on December 27.

Thurston Holland, the producer, tells me it is hoped to play sound tracks dated as early as 1922, though their quality may be poor.

"Choosing suitable films is no easy job," he said. "Only short excerpts can be taken from each, and all must be welded into a continuous story linked by a narrative."

I remember seeing in 1928 what is believed to have been the first sound film to reach London. It was an interview with the late President Coolidge. The voice was muffled, but the sight and sound of a man speaking from a cinema screen created a bigger sensation than 3-D today.

Christmas present

PEOPLE born on December 24, 25, and 26 often find their presents must do for Christmas too, and vice versa.



Franklyn Engelmann

Like most of us, Franklyn Engelmann, who runs Family Favourites in the Light Programme, thinks this is hard luck, so the records will be chosen by those with birthdays at Christmastime.

On and on . . .

JOURNEY into Space, Charles Chilton's exciting serial in the Light Programme, looks like voyaging into infinity. With Jet Morgan and his friends now far beyond the solar system, the story is to be continued for an extra 13 instalments, until mid-March.

Busy week

ONE of the busiest actors in Christmas week will be Sir Ralph Richardson. In the Home Service on Sunday he is guest in I Know What I Like, with the BBC Concert Orchestra. Next



Sir Ralph Richardson

day, also in the Home, he stars in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and on Wednesday (December 23) in R. C. Sherriff's Christmas play, The White Carnation.

100-year sleep

THE Sleeping Beauty in TV this Thursday and again on Sunday, is not a pantomime but the original fairy story told in a play by Rex Tucker.

It begins outside the thicket-enclosed castle when the 100 years' magic spell is about to end. Then we are whirled back in time to the birth of the Princess, when all



Ann Hanslip

the spinning wheels are being collected to prevent her from pricking her finger and falling under the curse. The time span is being covered with special film while the actors change their make-up and costume.

Ann Hanslip will be Princess. John Kirch, who plays Prince Charming, won the rôle by lucky chance. Rex Tucker, after turning down 25 candidates, met him sadly leaving the office of another producer whose cast-list was full.

Quiet interludes

MONTY REDNAP, who filmed

TV's famous Windmill interlude scene and many others, is back with more pictures, this time from Scotland. Among "restful" subjects, he tells me, are waterfalls at Killin in Perthshire, scenes on Lochs Leven and Tay, the Forth Bridge, and fishing fleets at Peterhead.

Party in the ward

TV CAMERAS and floodlights will be trundled into a ward of Paddington Green Children's Hospital, London, on Friday for a Christmas party complete with Santa Claus and a Christmas tree.

Al Stevens, who plays the Cat in Panto, will be there along with conjurer Gilbert Leaney and those Children's TV favourites, Peter Butterworth, Janet Brown, and John Hewer.

TV opera

AMAH! and the Night Visitors, the opera to be televised on Sunday, was written two years ago by the Italian composer Menotti especially for American TV.

It tells of a little cripple boy whose home is visited by the Three Kings from the East. Charles Vignolles and Barry Guard, two boys from Canterbury Cathedral choir school, are training for the part of Amahl. Whoever is chosen by Producer Christian Simpson will be understudied by the other.

Amahl's mother will be played by Gladys Whitred, who sings the tunes for Andy Pandy.

On the Royal Route

THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS OF FIJI AND TONGA

THE Queen will be in Fiji this week.

It will be her first visit to the one-time Cannibal Kingdom, and she will be the first reigning sovereign to see the Fijians on their own territory.

But do not imagine that the Queen will be welcomed by hordes of savages, though that picture would have been true enough less than 80 years ago.

Today she goes to visit a highly civilised, loyal, and devoted people, who have cultivated the arts of peace without losing their reputation for valour.

A PEACEFUL PEOPLE

The most peaceable of Christians at home, with a good game of barefoot Rugby football their most exciting diversion, the Fijians won high decorations, including a V.C., in the Solomons in the last war; and today volunteers are fighting against terrorists in Malaya.

When Fiji was ceded to Queen Victoria, 79 years ago, it was a land of Fijians alone, but less than half the faces Queen Elizabeth will look upon will be those of the tall, splendid Fijians under their stiff bushies of hair.

The others will be largely those of Indians, descendants of labourers brought to work in the sugar fields. Today they actually outnumber the Fijians. Sugar is

Facts About Fiji

There are 322 islands in the Fiji group (about 100 inhabited) with an area of 7083 square miles. The biggest, Viti Levu, is about the size of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Sussex combined.

The population is about 302,000. Of this total 143,000 are descendants of Indian sugar planters, 133,000 are Fijians, and the remainder are Europeans, people from other Pacific islands, and Chinese.

Methodists are the largest single religious group in Fiji, next come Hindus, and then Roman Catholics.

Fiji's chief products are sugar, copra, and gold.

The capital is Suva—population 30,000—the biggest town in the Pacific after Honolulu.

Money, weights, and measures are the same as in this country.

Nadi is one of the main Trans-Pacific airports.

one of the Colony's main industries, and Fiji boasts the largest sugarmill in the Southern Hemisphere.

Fiji has another big industry—gold mining—which was begun only within the last 25 years. The Fijians, who refused to work in the sugar fields, work quite happily underground, though no one knows why.

How will the Fijians welcome their Queen?

Undoubtedly in the old, chiefly fashion: with a great yanggona-drinking ceremony.



Queen Salote of Tonga

The men will wear grass and bark shirts, and flowers and leaves in their hair and round their biceps, wrists, and ankles. With much dancing and clapping, they will present her with 'whales' teeth, and with cup after cup of their special drink made from the root of the pepper tree, yanggona.

At first yanggona tastes rather like the water in a toothglass after you have washed your toothbrush in it, but after a while one becomes quite fond of it. It is not intoxicating.

The Queen will probably be taken to see the mace in the Legislative Council Chamber, for this was the war-club previously used by the old Cannibal King, Thakombau.

He had it embellished with silver doves of peace and olive branches when he sent it to Queen Victoria on Cession. It had hitherto, he said, "been the only known law in Fiji." It now symbolises a very different kind of law.

AFTER Fiji the Queen sails to renew acquaintance with another queen, one now well-known and loved by all those who

Gifts from Fiji

While teeth will be ceremonial gifts to the Queen from the Fijians, who have searched far and wide to obtain a sufficient quantity. About a hundredweight of teeth of different sizes have been sent by a whaling firm in Scotland.

Other gifts will be a gold ring for the Queen containing a grey Fiji pearl among diamonds and sapphires; a walking stick made of Fijian wood for the Duke of Edinburgh; a model canoe for Prince Charles; and a doll in Fijian costume for Princess Anne.

Facts About Tonga

Tonga, Captain Cook's "Friendly Islands," are a group of about 150 with an area of 269 square miles. Their population, about 46,000, consists mainly of Polynesians.

The islands are an independent kingdom under British protection, which was established in 1900. Tonga (the word means South) is the only monarchy in the Pacific area.

Tongatabu, the largest in the group, is a flat coral island, contrasting with others of volcanic origin which rise to over 3300 feet.

The capital is Nukualofa on Tongatabu Island, a charming little town of 5000 people.

The Tongans are mainly Methodist, Queen Salote being head of the Wesleyan Free Church of Tonga.

The islands export about £1,270,000 worth of copra a year and £68,000 worth of bananas.

saw her smiling through the rain in the Coronation procession this year.

Queen Salote of Tonga will provide a right royal welcome, for she is Queen of the Friendly Islands in more ways than one. (Captain Cook called the islands the Friendly Islands, although, as it turned out, they proved none too friendly to him.)

Queen Salote's ancestor, King George the First of Tonga, so much admired the British that he changed his name to George (Teote) and his Queen's to Charlotte (Salote) after our own King George III and Queen Charlotte. He also became a Christian, and set up a constitutional monarchy on the British model; and since his day all Tongan kings and queens have followed his worthy example.

PALACE LIKE A VILLA

Tonga is no make-believe kingdom. Salote is a real queen, internationally recognised, and entitled to a royal salute of 21 guns.

Her royal standard flies over her palace, which looks like a wooden seaside villa surrounded by Norfolk pines; and outside it stands the royal guard of honour.

Tonga is only a small kingdom. The three groups of islands stretch for about 200 miles, with a total land area not as big as that

of the Isle of Man, and only some 46,000 people.

It is, however, a very ancient one, for it was founded about the time that King Alfred was burning the cakes.

Queen Salote is unusually tall and majestic. She is over six feet three, and weighs 20 stone. Her coronation crown is the heaviest in the world.

PALACE AND PEOPLE

In her palace she entertains foreign visitors in full evening dress and high-heeled slippers, and her dinners are served as they are here.

But when she appears at her people's feasts she wears a ragged skirt made from the beaten bark of the mulberry tree, an ancient and highly-valued ceremonial garment. She goes barefoot and sits on the ground before the food mat to eat with her fingers.

When Captain Cook sailed away so suddenly and unexpectedly he

Tonga's royal guard

While the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are in Queen Salote's palace on December 19, it will be guarded all night by 300 to 400 Tongans bearing lighted torches. At dawn musicians will softly play a nose-flute symphony in the grounds. Later the Royal visitors will attend Divine Service in the big Wesleyan Church at Nukualofa.

left two tortoises behind him as a gift to a Tongan chief. One of them died.

The survivor, Tui Malila, is getting on for 200 years old and is now a little battered and blind. He was made a king by royal decree, and he has his own special servants to attend him.

They must bow low before him, and address him as Your Majesty. They have no other work to do but to see that he is safe and well, and that his appetite for bananas is fully appeased.

When the Queen meets Tui Malila, as she is sure to do, she will be looking on the oldest piece of living history that she will see in the Pacific.

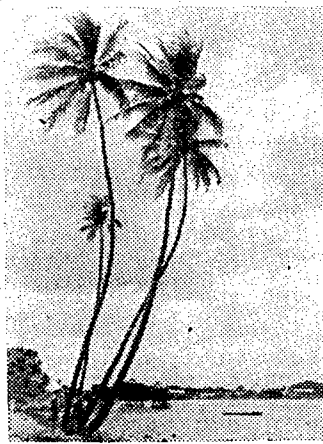
LUCILLE IREMONGER



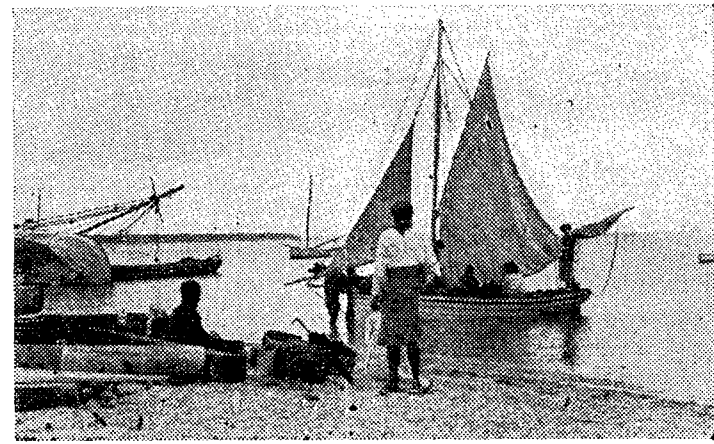
Government House at Suva, capital of Fiji



Fijians performing the yanggona ceremony



Palm trees by a peaceful bay



Fishermen on the beach at Nukualofa, Tonga's capital

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · EC 4
DECEMBER 19 1953

DID YOU KNOW?

WHO is Mr. John Foster Dulles? What party is now in power in the United States? These questions were put to people in Britain by the International Press Institute, and it is sad to reflect on the fact that only 24 per cent knew the answer to the first (U.S. Secretary of State), and only 46 per cent the answer to the second (the Republican). According to this survey, 38 per cent said they had no time to become acquainted with foreign affairs, and 28 per cent were not interested.

Alas, too many citizens in all countries lack interest in what happens beyond their borders!

The world grows smaller, and it behoves us all to know our neighbours better.

PRIDE OF DEVON

LOCAL life and local colour in this small island are a very precious part of our heritage, and so the news that Devon men are forming The Association of Drake's Men is heartily welcome.

They are going to sound Drake's Drum again, not to beat off an enemy, but to revive some of the old Devon ways and customs.

It is a bold and imaginative idea, and we sincerely hope other counties will adopt it.

The Editor's Table

HEALTH REAPS A HARVEST

ONE of the important results of anti-malarial campaigns throughout the world is a big increase in production of food and goods.

For instance, since malaria control became effective in 1947, Ceylon has reclaimed and irrigated more than 206 square miles of previously uninhabitable jungle. More than 91,000 landless people have now been established in 26 new colonisation schemes.

In the town of Puli Khumri, in Afghanistan, the workers in the textile mills used to produce 20,000 yards a day. Since malaria control, the population of the town has risen from 5000 to 20,000, and the output of the mills has been considerably increased.

Good health promotes good works.

Vive la barbe!

FIFTY years ago no one would have drawn a caricature of a Frenchman without giving him a beard.

But the fashion has changed and clean-shaven chins are now the order of the day; so much so that a beard-growers' friendly society has been started at Saint-Jean-d'Angély.

Its members aim to make beards popular once more by cultivating all styles: round, square, pointed, swallow-tail, artichoke-leaf, horseshoe, necklace, fan-shaped, and many other varieties.

It will be a great day for Saint-Jean-d'Angély when the new society holds its first annual show, with prizes for the winners in all classes.

JUST AN IDEA

As Trollope wrote: Who can rise but those who believe their wings strong enough for soaring?

The solution

THE following conversation was reported from a country sweet-shop in Yorkshire:

"Have you owt for a ha'penny, mister?"

"No, son, we don't sell ha'pennies here."

"Well, how much are these, then?"

"Two for a penny."

"All right, give me one of them and I'll come back for t'other tomorrow."

Pantomime giant



The work of preparing pantomime "props" is now in full swing, and here we see a giant's head being painted.

The first Christmas pudding

WHO mixed the first Christmas pudding? The credit has been claimed for King Ethelbert of Kent; but Scottish authorities assure us that their doughty Celtic ancestors regaled themselves with Yuletide plum porridge, and this, presumably, evolved into the King of Puddings we know today.

Scots claim the first known recipe for Christmas pudding—a recipe which shows that the Caledonian variety has for long been as rich, or richer, than that eaten elsewhere. (Whether saxpences were concealed in it history does not reveal.)

Celts of another sort, the Bretons, make the claim that in dim ages past their forefathers were initiated into the Christmas pudding mystery by the Greeks.

Whatever the nationality of the first pudding-mixer, we shall all do him homage next week.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, December 22, 1923

IN South London is an entomological expert who assembles battalions of ladybirds, and supplies them to gardeners and growers whose plants are infested with green fly.

Already the "ladybird factory," as it is called, has over half a million ladybirds, and these will be available for a great campaign against the green fly next Spring. There are several kinds of ladybirds, but the bulk of this stock consists of the two-spot ladybird.

STARS GOING OVER THE HILL

THOUSANDS of young Americans are learning a Korean children's folk song which has been compared with our "Twinkle, twinkle, little star." Many American soldiers can sing the Korean words but it has now been translated into English. Here it is:

*See the stars go over the hill
When the night is tender and still.*

*Listen! and I will count them.
Watch them going over the hill.
There's a pretty one! Another one!*

There they go to wake up the sun.

Room for them all

THE United States now has more than 53 million motor cars—enough to carry not only every American man, woman, and child, but also the entire population of Italy.

If ever Britain gets a corresponding number of cars on its roads there will be such a traffic jam that the whole population will do better to walk.

Think on These Things

KING SAUL made many mistakes, and when his friends did not agree with him he fell into fits of depression. At such times music eased his troubled soul, and a boy named David was engaged to play the harp to him (First Book of Samuel, chapter 16).

David helped Saul and gradually rose to power and influence. Songs were sung in his honour, and the people spoke his praises.

Then Saul became jealous of David. Twice he tried to kill him, and eventually David had to leave the service of Saul and find safety elsewhere.

Saul was displeased with the success of another, envying him his good fortune. Envy prompts men to evil deeds. F. P.

TRUTH

Remember, then, as long as you live, that nothing but strict truth can carry you through the world, with either your conscience or honour unwounded.

Lord Chesterfield



Under the Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If anyone ever
mends a rent
book

Some young people are always blushing. Usually those without much cheek.

Road repairs cause diversions. But travellers do not find them diverting.

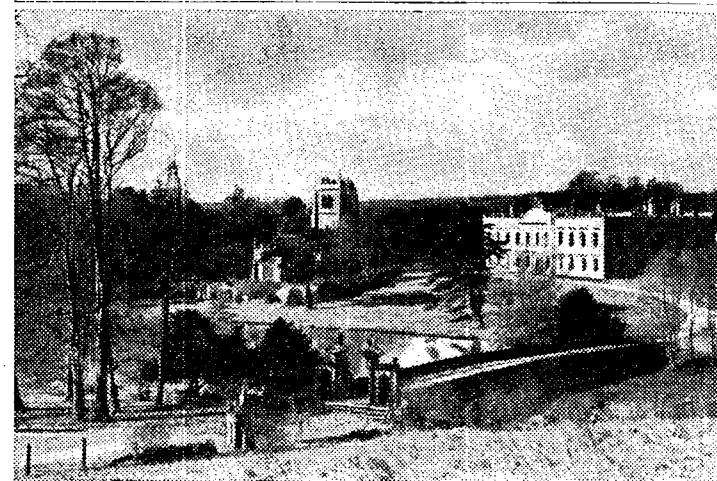
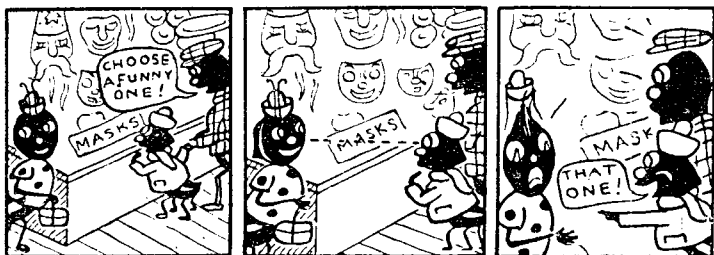
A Suffolk rural council is trying to sell a millstone. Thinks it should fetch a round sum.

A correspondent thinks no trees in London suburbs should be cut down. Or cut up.

A new book is called *Good Manners in a Nutshell*. It ought to be cracked up by the reviewers.

In cooking, wash up as you go, says a writer. Some people prefer to go before the washing-up starts.

BILLY BEETLE



OUR HOMELAND

Historic Staunton Harold,
in Leicestershire

The Children's Newspaper, December 19, 1953

THE DAY WHEN MAN CONQUERED THE AIR

A Winter's Day Dream That Came True Just Fifty Years Ago

GREAT TRIUMPH OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

OVERNIGHT, pools of water from the recent deluge of rain had frozen hard on the field at Kittyhawk, North Carolina. A biting wind cut at 25 miles an hour across the bleak, desolate scene.

Perhaps it was not surprising that out of the hundreds invited, only a handful of people braved the bitter weather to see man's first flight in a heavier-than-air machine on December 17, 1903.

No one guessed then that an epoch-making event was about to take place. Not one journalist was present to report an incident that was to change the history of the 20th century.

Only a week or two before, there had been a large gathering of Press and public to see an inventor take his flying machine over the edge of a cliff, and crash to destruction at the bottom.

The trail of failure and disaster was becoming grimly monotonous. Press and public had made up their minds that the secret of flight for man lay in balloons, gliders, and airships; and that to attempt to fly in a heavier-than-air machine was to contradict Nature.

Neither Wilbur Wright nor his brother Orville was particularly happy at the prospects that morning. They waited until 10 o'clock, but the wind showed no sign of decreasing so they took out their machine. It was a biplane weighing about 750 lbs., and powered by a 12 h.p. internal combustion engine that they had built themselves.

In many ways it was a remarkable aeroplane, containing features to which present-day designers are turning as the latest thing in aircraft construction.

WING CONTROL

Today, in an attempt to solve the problems of taking off and landing high-speed sweptback aircraft, designers are experimenting with wings of variable incidence—that is, the angle at which the leading edge meets the airflow can be changed to increase lift at low speeds.

The wings of the Wrights' plane, however, were fitted with warping devices by means of which they could alter the incidence of the wing to give better flying control.

To save weight and stowage space the supersonic aircraft of the near future may well have to dispense with an undercarriage. One of the alternatives that is being considered is a return to landing skids.

"Return" is the word, because the Wrights' machine was fitted with skids, which for take-off travelled along a rail track.

FIRST MAN TO FLY

High speeds have brought with them the problem of increasing G (the loading on the body of the Earth's gravitational force) in turns and manoeuvres. To enable pilots to withstand G, and to delay the point at which the blood is drawn down from the head, causing black-out, pilots may soon be flying in a prone position.

When Orville Wright took off in that first aeroplane in 1903 he was lying down on his stomach.

The two brothers had tossed-up for the privilege of going first. Wilbur won, but used his turn in an unsuccessful attempt on December 14. It was therefore to Orville that the honour of the first flight went on December 17.

"Wilbur," wrote Orville Wright in the U.S.A. Air Service Report, "ran at the side, holding the wing

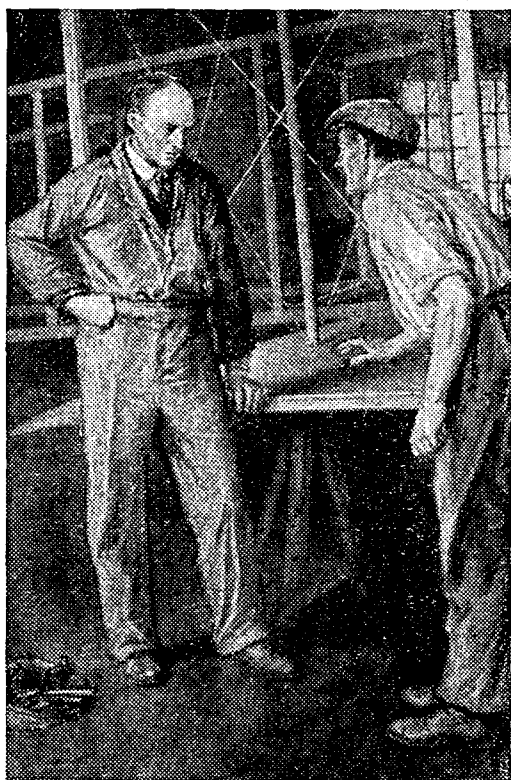
over and over. The man escaped with a severe bruising, but the world's first aeroplane was wrecked beyond repair.

The Wrights set to work and built another, stronger, aeroplane.

This time, in the Spring of 1904, about a dozen reporters went to see the first trial.

Unfortunately a mechanical fault prevented the engine from developing its full power. In addition there was practically no wind to help them into the air. The Wrights and their aeroplane stayed on the ground, and the newspapers lost interest in them.

Undeterred, the brothers continued with their experiments. In a letter to the Aero Club of America, a Mr. Charles Webbott gives the following description of a flight by the Wright brothers



Wilbur and Orville Wright in their workshop

to balance it on the track. The machine, facing a 27-mile wind, started very slowly. Wilbur was able to stay with it until it lifted from the track after a 40-foot run.

"The course of the flight up and down was exceedingly erratic. The control of the front rudder was difficult. As a result, the machine would rise suddenly to about ten feet, and then as suddenly dart for the ground. A sudden dart when a little over 120 feet from the point from which it rose into the air, ended the flight."

It had taken 12 seconds to cover the 120 feet. Three more flights were made that day, the last of which continued for 59 seconds, and travelled 852 feet.

The flights ended without mishap, but as the Wright brothers stood talking to the group of spectators, a gust of wind caught the aeroplane. The group dashed towards the machine as it rocked precariously in the wind.

One of the spectators reached it first. He bent across one wing to hold down the aeroplane, but was immediately swung off his feet.

Man and machine were blown

in the autumn of 1905:

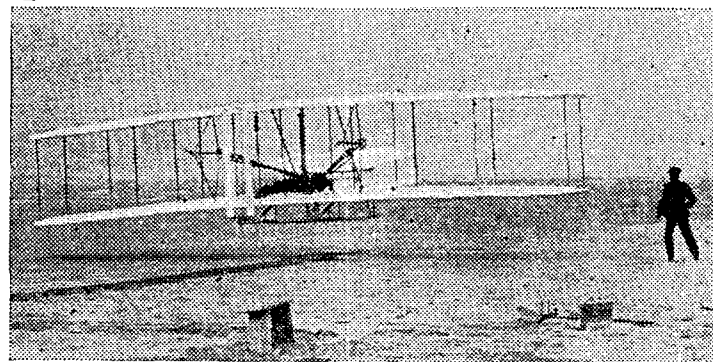
"The machine started from a short track lying on the ground, and rose into the air on an inclined path till it was well above the height of the tallest trees. It then kept on a horizontal path, flying round and round the meadow in circles about a quarter of a mile in diameter. The flight lasted more than half an hour."

CROWDS OF SPECTATORS

If the Press lacked interest, the opposite was the case with the people living in the locality. Spectators flocked to the airfield in such crowds that the Wrights had to suspend their experiments.

By that time, however, they had developed their aeroplane to a stage where it could be put on the market. The brothers had started as printers and publishers, and then opened up as cycle manufacturers. Now they concentrated upon the aircraft industry.

Their first real recognition came in 1908, when they built a two-seater aeroplane for the United States Government. In this machine, which could fly 125 miles at 40 m.p.h., the prone position



The historic moment at Kittyhawk on December 17, 1903

was abandoned, and both pilot and passenger sat upright in seats.

The Wright brothers worked always as a team. To ensure that nothing should be overlooked, they adopted from the beginning the policy that if one brother put forward one view the other should automatically take up the opposite line. In this way every detail and contingency was thrashed out.

Their policy did lead to complications once, though, when they were planning an engine. Wilbur became convinced in the discussion that he was wrong and Orville right, whilst at the same time Orville became just as positive that Wilbur was correct. The argument had to start all over

again with the brothers changing sides on the line of thought!

The idea of powered flight first interested the Wright brothers in 1896. From then until 1903 they spent seven years of study, research, and experiment before they evolved the world's first aeroplane. Undoubtedly in the thoroughness of their preparations lay the secret of their success.

The Science Museum at South Kensington has an exhibition to mark the Wright Brothers' flight in 1903. Early ideas on powered flight are illustrated by models, books, relics, and diagrams, and photographs reveal the dangers faced by the pioneer flying men.

FLYING IN 50 YEARS' TIME

Continued from page 1

travel from London to Australia than it will to go from London to Glasgow. The fare to Australia will still of course be much more expensive, because of the amount of fuel necessary to provide the required velocity to send the rocket-propelled airliner soaring through space to land on the other side of the world.

"Aircraft will follow the curved path, up and down, of a trajectory. There will be no question of straight and level flying."

REASONABLE FARES

Fares, Mr. Masfield considers, should be reasonable. On a jet aircraft today the loss of fuel in wasted energy is over 70 per cent. On a piston engine the margin of waste is as low as five per cent. As the efficiency of jet and rocket power units increases to a similar point, fuel costs can be reduced by as much as two-thirds. Thus high-speed air travel should ultimately produce lower fares.

The biggest problem in the way of aircraft departure from the middle of a city lies not in the provision of the additional thrust necessary to give vertical take-off, but in the noise. Some form of noise reflector on the ground which will turn the jet away from the ground may point to a solution.

HELICOPTER FERRIES

In the meantime, helicopters ferrying passengers from city centres to airports will be the first step in saving passengers the inconvenience of journeys to and from airports by other means of transport.

However, Mr. Masfield feels sure that by A.D. 2003 the heli-

copter will have outlived its usefulness, and have become a museum piece.

The vast expansion and development of air travel during the second half of this century will undoubtedly bring the problem that is now being experienced on the roads—that of traffic congestion.

Will there be aerial policemen? Mr. Masfield thinks not. Traffic control, he considers, will be done from the ground; and because of the danger in crowded skies he thinks there will be no such thing as private flying.

"I suppose," Mr. Peter Masfield concluded, "special areas low down may possibly be set aside for private flyers. I hope so. But for high level flying the private plane will be prohibited altogether. It is a ban that I personally would regret, but I think the dangers will make it inevitable."

LIFE IN A.D. 2000

What sort of a world shall we be living in at the end of this century?

Life in A.D. 2000 is the subject of a competition which is being held by the Royal Society of Arts as part of the celebrations of its Bicentenary Year, 1954.

Entries, which will be judged chiefly on originality, may be in the form of typewritten essays not exceeding 3000 words, or drawings, or models. The first prize is £250.

Competitors are asked to concentrate on forecasting some practical change, such as developments in transport and housing.

More information can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.

ABOARD THE ROYAL YACHT

Builders of the Royal Yacht, Britannia, have taken precautions to "safeguard" her against ill luck after she is commissioned at the end of the year. Following an old sea custom a tiny box containing silver coins worth 6s. 9d. was welded to her deck, and the main mast stepped over it.

But the lucky box was unlucky! A workman accidentally drilled a hole through it, and the money had to be replaced.

There was no need for alarm, however, for later it was found that shipbuilders had placed their own lucky pennies inside the mizzen mast. Some 190 coins were discovered inside it.

Designers of the Britannia intend that she shall be quiet as well as lucky; her engine room walls have perforated plates through which sound passes to be lost in acoustically absorbent mineral wool.

One small problem encountered in the dining saloon, which is to be used for film shows, was how to project the pictures over the heads of the audience. This was overcome by fitting a special periscope to the lens of the projector.

YOUTH PLAYS ITS PART

Youth has come to the rescue of the town band of Pickering, Yorkshire, which had to draw musicians from a wide area before it could fulfil engagements.

The band was lately reduced to nine players, but the bandmaster, Madam Naomi Bell, once a well-known soprano, has now recruited 12 schoolboys between nine and 14. Four others will join when instruments become available.

CLOGS FOR THE WORLD

Holland is still easily the world's largest producer of wooden shoes, seven million pairs being made annually.

The export of wooden shoes, begun on a commercial basis three years ago, is growing rapidly and this year's export figures are expected to be doubled in 1954.

Steps to Sporting Fame



It is easy to assume that Alf Ramsey, the Tottenham and England right-back, started Soccer very early. But that would not be true.



Indeed, as a youth, he scarcely played at all. He worked as a grocer's assistant—and on Saturday afternoons, too. He was in the Army, stationed in Hampshire, when he began to play regularly.



Southampton F.C. introduced him to first-class football, and in 1919 he joined the Spurs. A cool and constructive defender he takes penalty kicks for Spurs and England—and he seldom misses.



Yes, Alf Ramsey is a fine pattern for any young player, as members of the Eton Manor club, Hackney, will endorse. Every week he calls in to talk football, recalling how little help he had himself.

Alfred Ramsey

AIRCRAFT AND THE MISSIONARIES

New air services are being planned by the Australian Missionary Aviation Fellowship to extend the teachings of the Bible in New Guinea.

Two bases are nearing completion—at Wewak and Hollandia—and the first aircraft which is being shipped to New Guinea is expected to be in use by the New Year. Another is to be shipped before Easter.

The new service will help existing missionary work, and also carry out aerial surveys of country in which no missionary is working.

When these surveys are complete mission leaders will be able to site new stations in strategic areas and hasten the day when the whole of New Guinea can hear the Christian message.

A guest house for missionaries travelling to and from their stations has been built, and two pilot's houses are nearing completion.

PRIZES FOR C N READERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the two winning entrants in C N Competition No. 40, who each receive a complete Puppet Theatre. They are:

Janet MacArthur,
Packman Lane, Kirk-Ella, Yorks.
David Hughes,
Hawthornden Gardens, Belfast.

Book Tokens are awarded to the following ten runners-up: Ian Baxter, Leeds 5; Paula Bergh, Mill Hill, N.W.7; David Billington, Huddersfield; Geoffrey Hardy, Steyning; Robin Lowe, Newcastle; William Masters, Burnley; Colin Thomson, Larbert; Rosemary Truscott, Reading; Elizabeth Turner, Maldon; John Wilson, Birmingham 27.

Answers: 1—Car steering wheel, 2—Locomotive wheel, 3—Tractor wheel, 4—Lawn-mower wheel, 5—Scooter wheel, 6—Chair-caster wheel, 7—Wheelbarrow wheel, 8—Motor-cycle wheel, 9—Steam-roller wheel, 10—Spinning wheel.

ON THE ROAD WITH A TRAVELLING PLAYHOUSE

Moving about the country is a remarkable mobile theatre which brings good plays and good acting to out-of-the-way places and towns without theatres.

This is no ordinary travelling show, for inside it is hard to tell that we are not in a brick-and-mortar building. Indeed, we find all the comfort of a theatre.

There are 225 plush tip-up seats and the auditorium rises towards the back, so that everybody can see. Electric radiation panels and air-conditioning apparatus keep the atmosphere warm and fresh.

This splendid enterprise is due to the dogged efforts of a party of friends who fought against all odds to turn dreams into realities.

It all started ten years ago when Mr. John Ridley, an engineer, found himself working in a lonely part of Scotland. He realised then how starved of "live" entertainment many districts are.

Mr. Ridley is a lover of the theatre, and naturally his mind turned to the absence of dramatic art more than anything else.

He drew up plans, therefore, and made models of a transportable playhouse that could visit the most remote places, and which would be entirely self-contained.

But as a dream this might have stayed had he not moved to Hinckley, in Leicestershire. Here he helped to organise visits of travelling players, whose journeys at that time were being encouraged to help wartime morale.

With this experience he saw more than ever the need for a mobile theatre, for the main troubles of the actors lay in getting suitable stages for their productions and good lodgings for themselves. What a difference it would make if they could carry both with them!

THREE ENTHUSIASTS

He talked with players he met and eventually found Mr. Wilfred Harrison, who was as keen on the idea as himself. They went into conference with another enthusiast, the result being a decision to make a start on a mobile playhouse, building it themselves and using at first a small sum provided by Mr. Ridley.

But how was £7000, the estimated cost of the complete theatre, to be obtained? Here Wilfred Harrison offered to become chief "money raiser," as he felt that enough could be obtained by organised subscription.

With the cash from Mr. Ridley, ex-R A F trailers were bought and work began on a piece of spare land at Hinckley.

Money for the construction started to come in, but not fast enough to keep pace with rising prices. Eventually despair settled on the party, despite the fact that their theatre was taking shape.

At Christmas 1949 it seemed that they must abandon their scheme. But then, out of the blue, came a goodly subscription and work went on.

This was the turning-point. People began to take more interest, and, after more than four years of hard work and contriving, in October of last year the theatre held its opening night at Hinckley. Othello was the play, and Mr. Harrison took the part of the dusky Moor.

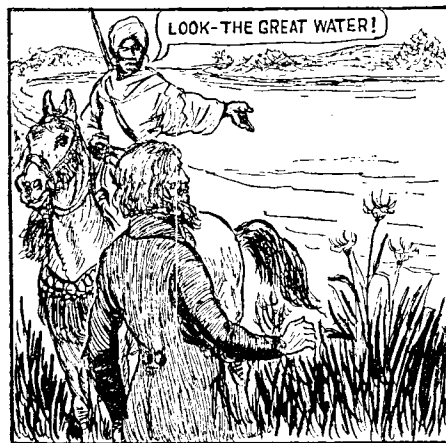
Then the theatre started on its first tour through Rugby, Warwick, Bodicote, Chipping Norton, and Worcester.

There was a short rest and last Spring the company set out again, travelling through Shropshire to Cheshire. The tour then took it to Macclesfield, Stafford, Lichfield; and now it has come back to Hinckley for Christmas.

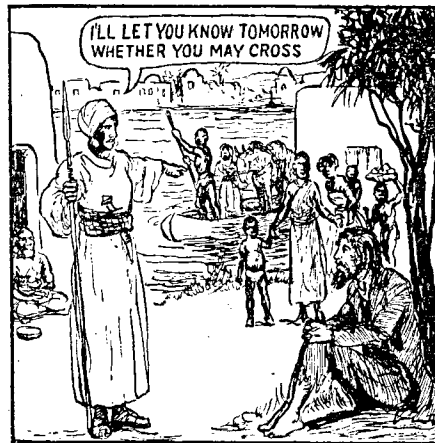
THE AFRICAN JOURNEYS OF MUNGO PARK—picture-story of a famous explorer (7)



Mungo's horse was too weak for him to keep up with the mounted Negroes, and he had to walk—barefoot now. His appearance was so woebegone that the natives in the villages laughed at him. Many of them thought he was a Moor, and said jokingly that he must have been on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Sarcasically they asked him if he wanted to sell his horse. Even the slaves were ashamed to be seen in his company.



But the resolute explorer's troubles vanished from his mind when he heard at a village where he stopped that next day he would see the Niger. He left early, caught up the Negroes, and felt a thrill of triumph when he saw the great river whose course he hoped to trace. It was as broad as the Thames at Westminster. He noted that it flowed eastward, contrary to opinions about it then held in Europe.



Mungo reached Sego, a large town, capital of Bambarra. He wanted to cross the river to visit the native king, but there was a crowd at the ferry and he had to wait. Evidently some of those who crossed took the news that a white man wished to see the king, for a messenger came to tell Mungo that he must not cross without permission. The man advised Mungo to lodge for the night at a village nearby.



The villagers, hearing that Mungo was suspected as a spy, would not have him in their houses. At last a woman took him in and gave him food. She and her daughters made up a song about him: "The winds roared, the rains fell. The poor white man, faint and weary, came and sat under our tree. He has no mother to bring him milk; no wife to grind his corn. Let us pity the white man, no mother has he."

Can the destitute explorer find other such kindly folk to help him on his way? See next week's instalment

Continuing

DANGER MOUNTAIN

by Patrick Pringle

Jack and Robin Hilton are with their parents in Switzerland and go ski-ing with a Swiss girl, Junge, whose father, Rudi, is a ski instructor. They catch a thief named Otto, but he is rescued from gaol. They go up Danger Mountain, where the boys are captured by a gang of forgers, and find that Otto is their fellow prisoner. He tells them he was rescued from gaol by a ski instructor named Anton. Then the boys hear someone outside and call out a warning, thinking it is Junge.

16. Otto explains

"Look out, Junge! Run! Danger!" the boys shouted.

They went on shouting until their voices were drowned by a confused noise from the next room as the two forgers, Harry and Pierre, cried out in alarm. Then there were running footsteps, and a door slammed. A voice called:

"Jack and Robin—where are you?"

"Rudi!" they exclaimed together. "We're in here." They began hammering on the locked door. When Rudi opened it they almost knocked him over in their haste to get out.

"Where's Junge?" asked Jack.

"She will come soon. I told her to wait—I thought we should have a fight."

"Where are the crooks?" demanded Robin.

"Husky we caught. The other two have got away, but Hans has gone after them. Do not worry—they will be caught. Is there anyone else here?"

"Only Otto—in there." Jack pointed to the room where they had been imprisoned. "He's harmless."

"I am glad to hear it," said Rudi, a bit surprised. "Stay here while I look round."

Another arrival

The only other downstairs room was a primitive kitchen which served also as dining room. There was a small portable electric cooker on a table, while a wooden tub served as a sink. Sawn logs were the only chairs.

There was one room upstairs. As in most chalets, the staircase was outside, going up from a veranda and leading on to a balcony. Rudi found three camp-beds and blankets, and a roughly-made cupboard.

"It is not one of our best hotels," he said jokingly as he came down.

"There's someone coming," Robin warned.

Rudi moved quietly across to the door.

"Anyone at home?" a voice called out. It was Junge.

Her father began to ask her why she had not waited to be called, but she was cross with him.

"If I waited I should have stayed there till I froze to death,"

she said. "You could have called me before. Where are they?"

"Got away," Jack told her. "Hans has gone after them."

"I ought to help him," said Rudi, looking worried.

"We can look after ourselves, if that's what you're thinking," put in Robin.

"I can't leave you here alone," Rudi told them.

"Husky's out of the way now, and the other two will soon be here from the chair-lift," Junge pointed out.

Rudi shook his head, and then suddenly stiffened.

"Sh!" he warned.

They heard a faint sound from outside. It was repeated, and it sounded as if someone was calling for Rudi.

"It's Hans," said Rudi as he went to the door and shouted back. Another call came, and then Rudi was suddenly getting his skis on. "He needs help," he explained. "You're not to go away from here until someone comes."

They promised they would not; then he was gone.

"I hope Hans is all right," said Jack.

"I hope so, too," agreed Junge. "If he is injured Rudi will have to chase them." For a moment she looked worried; then she shut the

door. "I missed the excitement," she complained to the boys.

"There wasn't much, really," Robin comforted her. "It was pretty tame at the end. I say, can't we get the lights on again?"

"Not unless you know how to start the dynamo." Jack turned up the wick of one of the oil-stoves.

"What happened to Husky, and how did you get hold of Rudi?" asked Robin.

Junge said she had gone to the power station and borrowed a pair of skis for Robin. There she had telephoned her father from the power station, and told him everything.

"Everything?" said Jack.

"About how we had followed Husky, and the blizzard, and then seeing the chalet," she explained. "He was worried about the chalet, because he did not think it could exist here. So he said he would come over from the chair-lift with Hans and two others, and told me to go and meet him. Husky met them first, and led them the wrong way, but I caught them up in time. Then the other two put a rope round Husky and took him back to the chair-lift, while Rudi and Hans came on here. You had disappeared, and there were signs of a fight, so they raided the chalet. I think that is all," she said.

"It's enough," said Jack. "You did jolly well."

"You haven't told me your story yet," Junge reminded him.

Junge sees Otto

"Sorry," said Jack, and began to tell her what had happened from the time she had left them at the entrance to the wood. She listened intently until Jack mentioned Otto.

"Otto! He was here?" she said in surprise.

"Didn't you know? Of course you didn't. He's in there." Jack pointed to the other room. "Like to see him?"

"No, thanks." She shuddered. "But how did he get there, and who tied him up?"

"That's still a bit of a mystery," answered Jack. "He may have fallen out with the gang—perhaps he tried to double-cross them. To cheat them," he explained. "But we found out one thing," he went on. "Otto says it was Anton who rescued him from prison."

"Anton!" exclaimed Junge. "You must have been mistaken—or perhaps he misunderstood."

"Why don't you talk to him?" suggested Robin. "He may be able to tell us lots more."

"Of course, I'll talk to him," Junge stood up. "At least, if he is really tied up properly."

"With chains and irons," Robin assured her. "Come on, then!"

Jack unlocked the door of the other room and led the way in. Junge shivered a little when she saw Otto, and Jack told Robin to

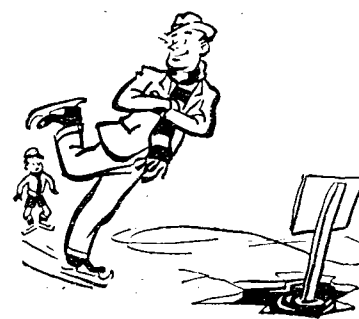


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you said . . .



the best skater . . .



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ENGLISH COINS

2. Roman Britain

With the conquest of Britain by Rome in A.D. 44, native coinage ceased and the coinage in circulation became that of the Roman Empire. Coins imitating the bronze coinage of the Emperor Claudius were produced by tribesmen on the edge of the province and in the unsettled conditions of the third century coins of the Gallic emperors were widely imitated in Britain.

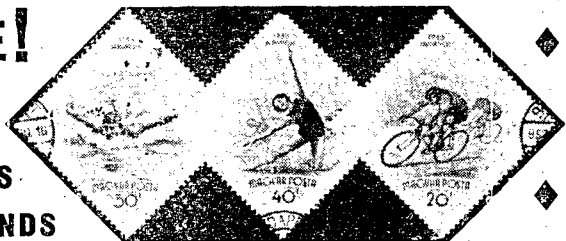


The first true coinage of Roman Britain was that struck by the emperors Carausius and Allectus, who established a separate empire in Britain at the end of the third century. The commonest type (shown here) shows the bull-necked portrait of Carausius and a figure of Pax—Peace.

From the recovery of the province in 296 to the end of the Constantinian dynasty coins were struck at a mint in London. With the breakdown of the Empire, the only coins struck in Britain were rough copies of Roman 4th-century coins.

Continued on page 10

10

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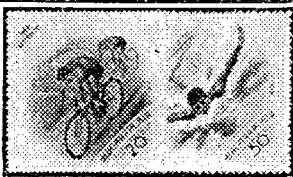
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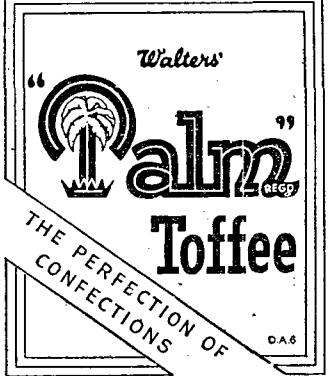
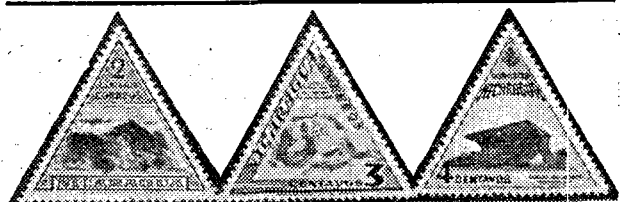
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BERKELEY STAMP CO. (CN), NEWTON, WEST KIRBY, CHESHIRE**SPORTS SHORTS**

ONE of the most coveted prizes in the swimming world is the T. M. Yeadon Memorial Trophy, awarded annually by the A.S.A. for the outstanding performance of the year. The 1953 award goes to Mrs. Lilian Preece of Wallasey, the English 220-yard free style champion, and holder of the 100-yard and 220-yard records.

SONIA COX is the youngest-ever New Zealand badminton champion. Hailing from Dunedin, Sonia is not yet 17, but she is already being spoken of as a future star. Another promising player is 17-year-old Judy Devlin, of Baltimore, U.S.A. Her father, Frank Devlin, won 18 All-England titles some years ago, and Judy may follow in his footsteps by appearing in our own championships next March.

ON December 22 two British swimmers will be competing in the first international 26-mile race in the River Nile. They are Ken Wray of Southport, who came near to swimming the Channel last summer, and Jennie James of Pontypridd.

MORE than 4000 runners competed in the Cross du Soir five-mile road race in Brussels. The race, which comprises five different team events, takes the thirty officials six hours to work out the result.

FOR the first time, a team of athletes representing Moscow will meet a London side in a floodlit match at the White City next September. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of internationals between Russia and England.

WHEN a new football ground was opened at Bovenwerk, in Holland, two Dutch Air Force teams were due to play a match, and there was great disappointment on the ground when only one team turned up. Then a large plane flew over the ground, and eleven players in football kit parachuted from the plane and landed on the pitch.

ANN HAYDON entered for the girls' singles in the Mersey-side Open table-tennis championships, but there were so few girl competitors that this event was merged with the boys' singles, and renamed the junior singles. Ann won the title, after defeating 17-year-old Derek Finan, the Lancashire boys' champion, in the final.



Jean Desforges, who was chosen as the British Woman Athlete of the Year, practising the long jump in Battersea Park.

CHARLES PORTER, aged 17, of Brisbane, has set up a new Australian schoolboy high jump record with a leap of 6 feet 3½ inches.

EVERY day John Oldham, 20-year-old postman, used to deliver the mail to Fulham's football ground. Recently he delivered his own letter—asking for a trial. Now John has signed on for the club.

THE M.C.C. party which is to tour the West Indies during the next three months, are breaking their flight to Jamaica by spending a fortnight in Bermuda, where three matches are to be played. The third will take place during the Christmas holiday weekend and the M.C.C. cricketers will spend Christmas Day on the field of play.

DANGER MOUNTAIN

Continued from page 9

turn up the oil-stove and shut the door.

Otto began talking in German, and seemed quite surprised when he got a reply in the same language. He and Junge did quite a lot of talking before she stopped to translate.

"He says it was definitely Anton who rescued him," she said. "He told him Emil had sent him, and that he would hide him in the mountains. Anton brought him up here, and then they locked him up."

She turned back to Otto, and after some more conversation she looked puzzled.

"It is very strange," she said. "He says he does not know any of the men here, or anything about forgeries."

After the next bit of conversation she told them that they were after Otto's money.

"They thought he had some

hidden, and kept asking him where it was," she said. "He denies he has any, but I am not sure that he speaks the truth."

"Nor am I!" exclaimed Jack. "And that explains everything. Listen—"

"Sh!" said Junge. "Someone comes."

She had heard the door in the other room being opened, and they all heard it being closed. Whoever had arrived was making very little noise.

Jack tiptoed across to the door and peered through one of the cracks. He saw a shadowy figure moving about by one of the benches. It was too gloomy for him to recognise him until the man picked up one of the oil-lamps and walked across to the printing-press. Then his face was visible.

Jack recoiled back in surprise. "Surely he isn't the Chief?" he whispered.

To be continued

The Children's Newspaper, December 19, 1953



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The Children's Newspaper, December 19, 1953



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The CN Astronomer writes of Uranus, the strange...

WORLD OF DARKNESS

ONE of the strangest known worlds in the heavens is Uranus, an immense sphere 59 times greater than the Earth; even in its short day of only 5½ hours, it is a world of everlasting twilight.

There are some 60,000 of these short days in a year of Uranus, except in the Polar areas, where the Sun might shine for 40 years and be absent from the sky for an equal time.

With a sky for ever covered with dense belts of cloud this would matter little to any Uranian beings with which our imagination may people Uranus, for they would see none of the glories of the sky so familiar to us.

SUN APPEARS AS STAR

Even at the surface of those Uranian clouds the Sun would appear only as a very bright star not twice the diameter of the very small disc which Venus presents to us. So the amount of light and heat which a space-ship might expect to find on reaching Uranus would be some 368 times less than on earth.

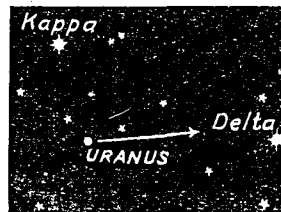
At night the stars and constellations would appear much the same as seen from the Earth, except that most of the planets, including the Earth, would be invisible. The constellations which, to us, rise in the east and set in the west would, seen from Uranus, rise in the north and set in the south.

What is beneath those vast cloud belts is not known, for not even radar has penetrated them. And should some space-travellers set out to travel the 1650 million

miles it would take them about 377 years speeding continuously at 500 miles an hour. Yet we can see this world with the naked-eye on any clear night now.

Though intensely frigid conditions are known to exist on the surface of the Uranian cloud-envelope, it may be very different far beneath it. The pressure of a gaseous mass of sufficient depth would produce fluid below it, and if this fluid resembled water it would doubtless possess creatures adapted to those conditions.

We know something of the dark, sunless depths of the Earth's oceans, so we could imagine the colossal sunless ocean that may



exist far beneath those greenish cloud-belts of Uranus.

Uranus, the farthest world that it is possible to see with the unaided eye, can just now be seen at its best, for it is nearer to the Earth than it has been for about 80 years.

The accompanying star-map, which is on a bigger scale than that in the December 5 CN, will indicate where the observer can find Uranus, but glasses will be needed to show all those fainter stars. The arrow indicates the extent of the motion of Uranus during the next month. G. F. M.

LEARNING TO BE A FARMER

Concluding the story of young Ian Farley who won a scholarship to an agricultural college.

12. Last days at the College

THE students were kept busy during the last few weeks of the course preparing for their final examinations. These, when they came, were not too difficult, and most of the students, including Ian, managed to pass.

When the results had been announced there was a general discussion.

"I'm sure I'll never remember half of what I've learnt here for more than six months," said Ian to one of the lecturers; "it's been such a concentrated course that I just haven't been able to fix it all in my mind."

"I should be very surprised if anyone remembers a quarter of what he's been taught," was the reply. "The idea of the course is not to cram a lot of knowledge into your heads, but to give you the basic principles of agricultural science."

"At least you'll know what book to look up if you want to know anything, and knowledge of the basic principles will enable you to work out problems for yourselves."

"I think the most valuable part of the course," said Ian, "has been that it has taught us that there

are lots of ways of doing every job on a farm, and that each way may be correct. With what we've learnt here we'll be better able to consider all the ways and pick out the one that suits us best."

Ian was naturally sorry to be leaving the College and to be saying goodbye to so many friends. But he had much to look forward to, because he had had a visit from Farmer Waring, and he had asked him if he would like to come back as his assistant.

"I'm a very busy man, Ian," he had said, "and I often have to go away and leave the farm for a day or two. What I'd like you to do is take a lot of the clerical work and general running of the farm off my hands when I'm there, and take over completely when I'm away. Would you like that?"

"There's no question of whether I'd like it or not—I'd love it," replied Ian. "The only question is, can I do it? However, if you're willing to let me have a try I can assure you I won't fail you for want of some hard work."

"That settles it, then," said Mr. Waring. "From now on you're the first Assistant Manager of Grove Farm."

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THE BRAN TUB

DEAF EARS

REMARKED one lad: "Our teacher talks to himself."

"So does ours," replied his friend, "but he thinks we are listening."

Free power

UNDERGROUND heat and steam tapped in geothermal bores at Wairakei, in the North Island of New Zealand, could produce enough power to run the main trunk railway from Auckland to Wellington, 400 miles away.

High hat

THERE was a young fellow of Durban

Who walked along wearing a turban;

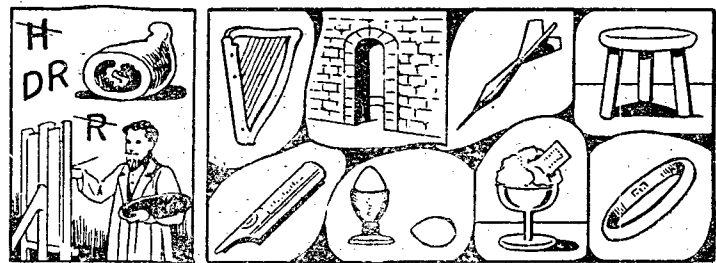
When asked "Are you hot?"

He replied, "No I'm not,

But your headgear is much too suburban!"

CAN YOU TELL FROM THE CLUES WHAT PROFESSION ...

... is given in the first picture? The name of a person famous in the profession is formed by the initials of the other objects. Answer next week



BEDTIME CORNER

Room for just one thing more

SANTA CLAUS was busy packing

Things into a sack (of sacking);
Stuffing, cramming, wedging
tight in

Things that children most
delight in.

Talking dolls and jumping
frogs,

Bunnies, bears, and golliwogs,
Balls and trains and drums and
trumpets,

Sweets and oranges and
crumpets,
Pocket knives and skipping
ropes,

Handkerchiefs and telescopes,
Cakes with walnuts on the
icing.

(Lots of those, they're so enticing!)

Necklaces and finger rings,

And twice two hundred other
things.

Then said Santa, standing back,
Beaming on his bulging sack,
"Now it's crammed with such
a store.

I'm sure it won't hold one thing
more."

* * *

A little mouse came creeping,
creeping,

Whiskers twitching, eyes a-
peeping,

Then behind the sack he stole
And put in one thing more—

a hole!

Laughing Santa Claus con-
fessed,

"You've beat me, mousie, you
know best!"

FELIX GREVILLE

BILLY SENDS A CHRISTMAS CARD

"WHY don't you make your
own Christmas cards this
year?" said Mummie to Billy.

"I will, with your help," said
Billy.

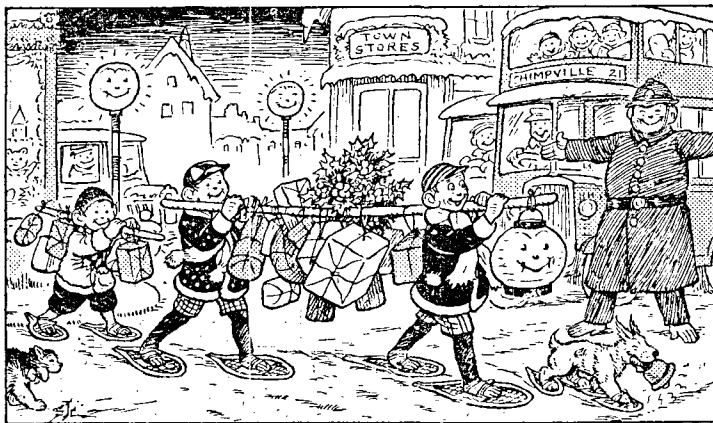
So Mummie drew some holly
on a sheet of white cardboard
and put a jolly little robin
in the corner. Then between them
they composed a verse.

It was a nice verse, but Billy
thought it would be a good idea
if they made it into a puzzle.
So they jumbled up the letters
of each word.

And here is what the finished
Christmas card looked like.
Can you read its message?



SEASONABLE SHOPPING IN JACKOVILLE



Jacko, Chimp, and Baby, heavily laden with some Christmas shopping, find a convenient means of carrying it. And Bouncer rang all the way home!

Sammy Simple

"DID you ask the butcher if he
had pigs' feet?" said Mother.

"I didn't like to," replied
Sammy, "and I couldn't see
because he was wearing shoes."

JUMBLE QUIZ

To find the answer to each
clue rearrange the anagrams in
brackets. Each solution begins
with the letter D.

1. Region of Yugoslavia noted
for its rugged beauty; includes
many islands. (A MAD TAIL)

2. He once thought Dionysius
the Elder, tyrant of Syracuse, the
happiest man on earth. But he
changed his mind when, taking
Dionysius' place at a banquet, he
saw above his head a sword sus-
pended by a single hair. (SAME
COLD)

3. Greek philosopher in the
time of Alexander the Great who
so firmly believed in the simple
life that he is said to have lived in
a tub. (SIDE GONE)

4. Northern kingdom which
once shared a king. Canute, with
England. (DARK MEN)

Answer next week

On these days ...

DECEMBER 21 is the day of the
apostle St. Thomas, patron of
masons and architects.

Legend tells that on a mission
to India he met King Gunda-
phorus, who gave him an enor-
mous sum of money for the
erection of a palace; but Thomas
gave it to the poor and told the
king that a superb palace had been
erected in heaven.

December 21 is also known as
Gooding Day, when gleaners in
Herefordshire at one time could
request a quarter of corn from
the farmer, and women went
a-gooding in some counties to
collect wheat to be ground by the
millers so that they could make
Christmas cakes. A sprig of holly
or mistletoe was sometimes given
in return.

In the swim

MY first is in sole but not in cod,
My second in carp you catch
with a rod.

My third is in eel but not in trout,
My fourth is in minnow, you'll
soon fish it out.

My fifth is in dogfish but not in
dace,
And my last is in herring but not
in plaice.

My whole is a fish tis the angler's
delight

To catch, and is always a savoury
bite.

Answer next week

Burning problem

SIGHED an earnest old cook
from Whitechapel:

"The problem with which I must
grapple

Is whether to bake

A big apple and cake,

Or a cake and a very big apple."

3 D puzzle

Can you complete each of the
following sentences with a word
beginning with the letter D?

MISTLETOE usually plays a promi-
nent part in Christmas —

It is a parasitic plant which grows
on various trees, including poplar,
lime, apple, thorn, ash, maple, and,
very rarely, oak. Pictures of the
— cutting mistletoe from oaks
— many people into imagining
that mistletoe commonly grows on
this tree.

Possible answers: decorations, Druids, delude

Lasting work

A COBBLER ought to work all
night,

The reason being, I contend,

The proverb says with utmost
truth:

It's never too late to mend!

What is it ...

... which goes both uphill and
down and yet never moves?

A road

No need to worry

"OO-ER," gasped a novice climber
hanging in space, "suppose
the rope breaks?"

"Don't worry," returned the
mountaineering instructor cheer-
fully. "I've got plenty more."

FAMILIAR TREES

THE beech takes many forms. In
woods and forests its huge
silver-grey trunk may rise erect for
fifty feet before shooting out its
mighty limbs.

Growing in the
open it is a
squarer tree
with a vast
spread of
branches:

The bole is

usually smooth, but with some of
the larger specimens it is rough
and covered with curious knobs or
growths.

During the winter the slender
twigs bear long spindle-like buds
which will unroll the following
Spring into beautiful emerald-
green leaves, pinnate in shape and
covered with silky hairs. As the
year progresses the leaves turn
darker, eventually becoming quite
brown.

The fruit is a hard, oval, bristly
case, which splits into four and
contains triangular-shaped nuts,
small but palatable. Beech mast,
as it is called, was at one time
used for fattening pigs.

Beech wood is hard and inclined
to be brittle. It is used for inlay
work and furniture.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Added words: Ham-

let, budget, catkin,

humour, impact

Can you ... Owl,

tern, crow, lark,

hawk, heron, swan,

wren

Jumble quiz: Cro-

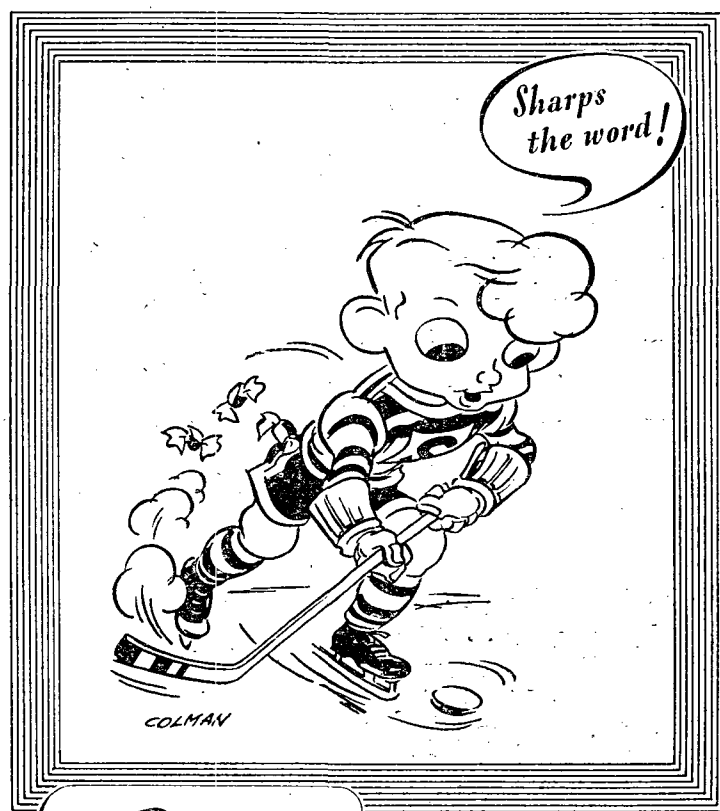
patra, Castile, coch-

inal, Chel-ca

Riddle-me-ree. Read-

ing

M	E	R	I	T	P	E	T
A	R	E	X	O	S	I	E
P	E	D	I	A	N	T	L
C	E	R	E	A	L	D	
S	T	E	M	T	A	M	E
P	R	M	A	N	U	R	E
I	E	D	E	S	I	R	E
C	L	E	A	R	A	G	A
E	L	M	S	O	C	I	E



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